



# NORTHERN ESSEX

COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Haverhill • Lawrence

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

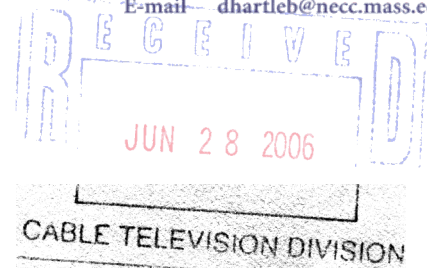
June 27, 2006

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Ms. Alicia Matthews  
Director of Cable Division  
Department of Telecommunications & Energy  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02111



Dear Ms. Matthews:

I am writing on behalf of Northern Essex Community College, which serves more than 15,000 Massachusetts-based students across the Merrimack Valley and beyond. Our students are dependent on technology to enhance their studies, and run their lives. However, while they have plenty of choice for broadband and other communications services, they don't have much choice when it comes to cable TV. Cable TV helps our students stay informed on current events, visit places they would otherwise not have the opportunity to see, and provides entertainment when they need a break from the hectic pace of their busy lives. They deserve to reap the benefits of competition – which lead to better service, enhanced technology offerings and lower prices.

In an effort to bring more competition to consumers as soon as possible, Verizon recently submitted a proposal to the Cable Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) that encourages a shorter and more predictable timeline for the competitive local cable franchise process. I am writing to ask you to act favorably on this proposal. With more players in the cable market today, consumers should have more choices. It just makes sense to expedite the local approval process for new entrants – which will benefit consumers and protect the interests of municipalities.

Additionally, Verizon has invested millions of dollars into our state's network to transform its network into a fiber optic broadband system that delivers higher quality video, clearer phone calls and Internet access at unprecedented speeds. This investment is as good for the state's economy as it is for consumers.

Please move quickly to adopt this proposal so more Commonwealth consumers can reap the benefits of competition.

Sincerely

David Hartleb  
President

cc: Judith Judson  
James Connelly  
Brian Golden  
Robert Keating  
Janice Tatarka